(c) Steps such as reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and additional flexibility in meeting the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) requirement have been taken to infuse liquidity into the banking system. Interest rate reductions have also been signaled by reductions in repo and reverse repo rates. Access to External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) has been liberalized to enable borrowers to access funds from abroad. In a recent stimulus package, Government has announced that India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) will float tax free bonds worth Rs. 10,000 crore, the proceeds of which will be utilized to refinance long term bank loans taken by PPP developers, particularly in the highways and ports sectors.

Income disparity

†1639. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite constant increase in annual growth rate for past several years, the society has witnessed disparity in income; and

(b) whether Government proposes to modify present measures for economic development so that the country can see balanced development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) While it is true that growth in GDP at market prices every year since 2003-04 has exceeded 8 per cent till 2007-08, the National Sample Survey data on the consumption expenditure for 61st round (2004-05) and 55th round (1999-2000), reveals that poorest population had a higher level of living in 2004-05 than in 1999-2000.

(b) Government of India is committed to ensure broad based improvement in the quality of life of people especially the poor and other disadvantaged sections of society, Accordingly, the Eleventh Plan also lays heavy emphasis on inclusive growth strategy that reduces poverty and creates employment opportunities underpinned by the National Rural Employment Guarantee besides providing equal opportunity, empowerment through education and skill development.

Non-performing assets of commercial banks

1640. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the commercial banks both public and private sector has increased recently; and

(a) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of commercial banks including public sector, private sector and foreign banks stood at Rs. 51,097 crore, Rs. 50,486 crore and Rs. 55,842 crore as on 31st March 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively. In percentage terms, the ratio of gross NPAs of these banks to their gross advances has decreased from 3.3% in 2006 to 2.5% in 2007 and 2.39% in 2008. The details of NPAs of public and private sector banks for the last three years are as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Bank Groups	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Gross NPA	Net NPA	Gross NPA	Net NPA	Gross NPA	Net NPA
Public sector banks	42,117	14,566	38,602	15,145	39,749	18,009
	(3.6)	(1.3)	(2.7)	(1.1)	(2.34)	(1.08)
Old private sector banks	3,759	1,375	2,969	891	2,557	740
	(4.4)	(1.7)	(3.1)	(1.0)	(2.26)	(0.67)
New private sector banks	4,052	1,796	6,287	3,137	10,419	4,892
	(1.7)	(0.8)	(1.9)	(1.0)	(2.90)	(1.38)

(Figures in bracket indicate the ratio of NPAs to gross / net advances)

Directors on boards of scheduled commercial banks

1641. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the maximum number of Directors on the Boards of Scheduled Commercial Banks, nominated by Government or the Reserve Barak of India (RBI)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): The Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may nominate the maximum number of directors on the Board of Directors on the following banks:-

Category of Banks	Act/Section under which appointed	Number of maximum directors
Nationalised Banks	Section 9(3) of Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980.	11
State Bank of India (SBI)	Section 19 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955.	10
Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)	Section 9(1) of the RRB Act, 1976.	03

In terms of Section 9A of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980, RBI may nominate additional directors on the Boards of Nationalised Banks. Similarly, in terms of Section 36 AB (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI may nominate additional directors on the Boards of Scheduled Commercial Banks excluding RRBs/SBI.

Heavy industries in North-East region

1642.SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the details and location of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Union Government, State Governments and Joint Sector in each of the States in the North-East Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): Department of Public Enterprises maintains information in